



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Parravano (co-chair), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Kerrie Fallon, Cynthia DeAngelis, Ileana Gatica Herrera

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Director), Christina Coleman (DEI Admin Assistant), Janice Cagan-Teuber (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Volunteer/Advocate), Sarah Forster (Resident/Volunteer)

Absent: Liza Molina, Paul Raia (co-chair)

Meeting called to order by Parravano at 4:06 PM

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Paul P, Grace, Paul R, 5 min)
2. Approve January Draft Meeting Minutes (Paul P, 5 min)
 - a. Rademacher motioned to approve January meeting minutes, Fallon seconded, motion passed unanimously.
3. Priorities for FY22-23 (70 min)
 - a. Budget and programs (Jill, 15 min)

- i. FY Budget for 2023 is \$25,000; opportunity to increase budget if commission presents and is able to justify increase to the Finance Committee
 - ii. Remaining budget for FY 2022 is \$3,185
 - iii. Commission agreed in the Fall to fund three programs in collaboration with True Story Theater, Cagan-Teuber and Deangelis offered to assist with content; Gatica suggested a topic area of complex disabilities; happy to propose ideas
 - iv. Proposal from the Rainbow Commission to cosponsor an event for Autism Acceptance Month; the cost would be \$250 to help fund the event
 - 1. Gatica motioned to approve the cosponsor request and provide funding of \$250, Carpenter seconded, all in favor, motion passed.
 - 2. After funding True Story Theater programming and Autism Acceptance Month Event, the remaining budget is \$2,435
- b. Interests and Commitment Areas (55 min)
 - i. Carpenter: Transportation, Recreation, and Communications
 - ii. Gatica: Collecting Data on Community Members Priorities (survey), community education, and collaborating with other commissions and groups in towns
 - iii. Fallon: Transportation, Community Outreach, and Recreation
 - iv. Mathiasen: Transportation and Technology
 - v. DeAngelis: Providing Training on Inclusiveness to Town employees, Assistive Technologies, communication & outreach, and increased recreation opportunities for children with disabilities
 - vi. Rademacher: Utilization of Transition Plan; reviewing the plan with a consultant's help and identify areas where departments are out of compliance
 - vii. Parravano: Voter Access – Public information campaign that will discuss the right to vote for residents as they age or residents with disabilities; identify ways we can make sure every resident has easy access to voting; Transportation, and increasing awareness of Disability Commission
 - viii. Cagan-Teuber: Making Town Communications accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, all major announcements should be in ASL
 - ix. Forster: Communication Boards for Playgrounds & Understanding our Differences Program
 - x. Leigh: Education & Awareness, Snow Removal, Curb cuts & traffic lights, health and disability
 - xi. Common theme noted: communications, creating a tip sheet for residents on the impact of not shoveling properly, curb cuts, etc.
- 4. Subcommittee reports (30 min)
 - a. DEI (Jill)
 - i. BOH rescinded indoor mask mandate effective immediately; Staff mask mandate rescinded effective February 22nd
 - ii. Meetings will remain remote for now
 - iii. Harvey submitted a grant last Fall; ADA Improvement Grant; funding will go towards improvements for hybrid technology to go into the main conference rooms, in process of being installed, but due to COVID, there has been delays.
 - iv. Disability Commission has the option to continue to conduct meetings remotely regardless of remote meeting laws

- v. Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator and ADA Coordinator positions are being finalized
 - b. Remote Participation (Janice)
 - i. During last Select Board Meeting, group presented preliminary report, received positive response from the Select Board
 - ii. Working on a Final Report for Town Meeting
 - iii. Subcommittee meeting on March 8th to work on developing protocols to conduct Hybrid meetings
 - c. Elections (Paul P)
 - i. April Election coming up
 - ii. Want to use new high school as a polling site
 - iii. Discussion on how many days for early voting
 - d. Education (Paul R)
 - i. Tabled
 - e. DPW (Mike)
 - i. Leigh suggested updating snow removal requirements on the website
 - ii. DeAngelis recommended adding a small sentence into the snow emergency alert voice message that includes proper snow removal
 - iii. Forster recommended a social media campaign to spread snow removal awareness
 - iv. Will regroup conversation next meeting
 - f. CODA (Grace)
 - i. Learning about universal design playgrounds in Cambridge
 - ii. First Wednesday of month at 12:00 pm, if you are interested in attending, please let Grace know.
5. Closing

Fallon motioned to adjourn meeting, DeAngelis seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 16th, 2022 at 4:00PM

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.